

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: ELAB, PINS, IS

SUBJECT: CIVIL SERVANTS UNREST CONTINUES IN SPITE OF NEW WAGE
CONTRACT

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 2529, (B) TEL AVIV 2444, (C) TEL AVIV 1801

1. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HISTADRUT SIGNED A "FINAL" TWO YEAR WAGE AGREEMENT REGARDING CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES ON APRIL 25. THE AGREEMENT GRANTS 2.5 PERCENT SALARY INCREASES FOR 1976 AND 2.5 PERCENT FOR 1977. IN ADDITION, CIVIL SERVANTS WILL GET THE SEMI-ANNUAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS AS PROVIDED BY SEPARATE COST OF LIVING AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH ALL CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES WILL BE INCREASED BY 10.1 PERCENT RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1. THOSE CIVIL SERVANTS RECEIVING THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCES, WHICH THE BARKAI COMMISSION RECOMMENDED BE ELIMINATED (SEE REFTEL C), WILL LOSE THEM IN FIVE STEPS ENDING BY APRIL 1978, WHEN ALL GOVERNMENT SALARIES WILL BE UNIFORM. IN THE MEANTIME A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF SPECIAL SALARY INEQUITIES CLAIMED BY SOME PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

2. THE TWO-THIRDS OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCES CONTINUE TO DEMAND EQUALIZATION OF ALL SALARIES BY OCTOBER 1. TO SUPPORT THEIR
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DEMAND, THEY CONDUCTED THREE-DAY "SANCTIONS" APRIL 25-28 AND

REFUSED TO DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC, EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES. DURING SANCTIONS PERIOD PUBLIC WAS ONLY MINIMALLY INCONVENIENCED, EXCEPT FOR PEOPLE ASKING FOR DRIVERS LICENSES, PASSPORTS, HEALTH CERTIFICATES, VEHICLE OR LAND REGISTRATIONS, AND SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY ALLOCATIONS. IN ANY EVENT BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS ARE BY NOW TAKEN IN STRIDE BY THE ISRAELI PUBLIC. THESE CIVIL SERVANTS, HOWEVER, THREATEN TO RESUME SANCTIONS AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY MAY 5 AND TO SUE THE GOVERNMENT AND HISTADRUT FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BARKAI COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS. SHOULD PUBLIC SERVICES BECOME MORE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED, GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO INVOKE EMERGENCY MEASURES WHICH HISTADRUT SAYS, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, IT WILL SUPPORT.

3. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN THE FIRST DEDUCTIONS OF THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCES IN JULY. THE DELAY IS ALLEGEDLY DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN PREPARING THE NEW PAYROLL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, CIVIL SERVANTS TO BE AFFECTED BY DEDUCTION MEASURES ALSO CONTINUE TO THREATEN STRIKES IN THE HOPE OF DETERRING GOVERNMENT AND HISTADRUT FROM IMPLEMENTING HTIS NEW AGREEMENT.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, THE KNESSET IS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER AND IS LIKELY TO BLOCK ANY GOVERNMENT MOVES TOWARD MAKING FURTHER CONCESSIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT, STRIKE THREATS NOTWITHSTANDING, CIVIL SERVANTS ARE THEREFORE NOT LIKELY TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT FURTHER CONCESSIONS, NOR ON THE OTHER HAND IS THE GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO REVERSE ITSELF ON THOSE CONCESSIONS ALREADY GRANTED. DESPITE CONTINUING ATMOSPHERE OF ANXIETY AND THREATS CREATED BY CIVIL SERVANTS' WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEES, THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE BARKAI REPORT IS LIKELY TO SUBSIDE, WITH NO MORE THAN BRIEF SPORADIC STRIKES OR SANCTIONS DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN THE END, GOVERNMENT AND HISTADRUT PROMISES OF REVIEWS OF REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES WILL SERVE TO SAVE FACE OF SPOKESMEN OF HARDLINE MILITANTS.
TOON

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